

Weekly Weather Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

Phone: 601-965-4575
Facsimile: 601-965-5622
www.nass.usda.gov/ms/
nass-ms@nass.usda.gov/

Week Ending July 18 2004

Released: 3:00 P.M., July 19, 2004

According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 4.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending July 18, 2004**. In spite of the decrease in rainshowers this week, much of the State's row crops are struggling with saturated soil conditions; furthermore, there have been several reports of cotton fields showing irreversible damage. Cattle producers have been taking advantage of what little sunshine they get to harvest hay, although the quality of these first cuttings is expected to be low. Soil moisture was rated 2 percent very short, 2 percent short, 65 percent adequate and 31 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2003	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Silked	100	99	99	99	1	5	17	49	28
	Dough	84	74	84	85					
	Dent	50	35	43	53					
	Silage Harvested	25	20	25	19					
Cotton	Squaring	94	89	91	97	4	8	18	47	23
	Setting Bolls	66	55	64	78					
Rice	Heading	30	19	38	29	0	2	12	66	20
Sorghum	Heading	92	80	80	84	0	1	14	78	7
	Turning Color	30	14	22	24					
Soybeans	Blooming	92	89	85	84	1	7	16	52	24
	Setting Pods	82	76	67	64					
Wheat	Harvested	99	97	100	100	--	--	--	--	--
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	43	36	64	63	12	18	26	34	10
Sweetpotatoes	Planted	98	90	98	99	1	7	32	51	9
Watermelons	Harvested	75	55	77	63	0	8	15	66	11
Cattle						1	3	16	64	16
Pasture						0	6	20	59	15

County Agent Comments

"Crop development within fields is highly variable due to excessive rainfall. Management decisions concerning weed control, PGR applications, and fungicide applications are difficult due to the variability."

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

"As mid-July has arrived, it has become apparent that much of the cotton that has been damaged by heavy rainfall and flooding has sustained permanent damage. Some of it may not be worth maintaining, but growers are still making efforts to salvage some value from it. Corn is beginning to mature now, with lower leaves turning brown in oldest fields. Yield potential looks good, but damage may become a problem if frequent rains continue. Early maturing beans are filling pods now and appear to be on track."

— Ernie Flint, Attala

"Constant rainfall has taken its toll on 1st and 2nd cuttings of hay this summer. The grass has been growing rapidly with daily rains, especially where some chicken litter or commercial fertilizer had been applied. Good quality hay may be short this fall."

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“Peanut producers are out in full force getting overdue fungicide and herbicide applications on the crop. Cattle producers are in a mad rush to make hay while the sun shines. Most producers are 2-to-4 cuttings behind schedule.”

— Mike Steede, George

“The past week without rain has allowed producers to cut and bale hay. If the dry weather holds, producers will have an opportunity to wrap up the first cutting and baling of hay. The extreme heat of this past week has caused stress on livestock.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“Growers are watering where they have not gotten any rain. The crops look much better since some weeds have been removed. Most of the county needs some rain.”

— Don Respons, Bolivar

“We have been getting a lot of rain during the last few weeks. Some fields are still saturated and the crops are growing well. Vegetables are hurting the most.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“Rain was welcomed as we were seeing drought stress in fields that still had sub-surface moisture. The root systems are really shallow. We have put a lot of hay on the ground this week!”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Cotton is struggling with wet soil conditions. Disease in soybeans and corn has increased to the point of having to spray. Hay cut early in the week received 1-to-2 inches of rain later in the week. Producers need a few dry days.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah

“Showers this weekend were welcome. Irrigation was set to begin on many crops as the hot weather had sapped plants. So far, insect pressure has been light.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Because of all the rain in the past two months, pastures are blanketed with grass and hay fields have not been harvested. We were able to get three days of fieldwork in this week.”

— Otis L. Davis, Madison

“Cotton and soybeans needed the rain from last week’s storm system. Plants were wilting by 10 or 11:00 a.m. Insect pressure has been below average, but the increasing temperatures activated several diseases in soybeans. Sweetpotato planting will cease after this week.”

— Dr. Bill Burdine, Chickasaw

“We are seeing some northern and southern leaf blight in corn, but overall the crop looks good. Soybean diseases have been on the rise the last couple of weeks due to all the moisture received in June. Cotton is hurt the worst.”

— Charlie Stokes, Monroe

“Conditions began to dry out a little over the week and producers are looking to bale a lot of hay this coming week. Crops are suffering from too much rain in lower areas and the dry weather will be a welcome relief.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Afternoon showers have made it difficult to harvest some of the warm season hay this week.”

— Thomas E. Brewer, Jefferson Davis

“Frequent afternoon rain showers continue to hinder hay and corn silage harvest operations. Corn harvest is in full swing and most producers are experiencing very good yields in the 12-to-15 tons per acre range.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Untimely rains have prevented hay from being harvested at the proper time, which will affect the amount and quality of forage production – livestock producers will have to plan for feed ration supplements to compensate. Pine plantations are in rapid growth from the additional rainfall.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene

“Finally, a break in the rain to harvest hay. Every producer in the county has been bailing. The quality is not so great due to the high growth rate of the forages since the last harvesting. However, with continued rains and the right break to harvest, the next round of cuttings could produce good hay. The cattle are looking great; there is plenty of grass in the pastures. Stocking rates are slightly up because the cattle cannot keep up with forage growth.”

— Lance Bruce, Lauderdale

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Mississippi Cooperative
Extension Service
Dr. Joseph H. McGilberry, Director

Southern Regional Climate Center
Louisiana State University
Elizabeth Sanders
Service Climatologist

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Mississippi Agricultural
Statistics Service
Thomas L. Gregory, Director

Weather Summary from July 12, 2004 to July 18, 2004 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Charleston	96	70	83	81	+2	2.87	+1.86	3	11.74				
Cleveland	96	71	83	82	+1	0.11	-0.63	1	5.05				
Tunica				82		0.88	+0.02	2	6.19				0.28
Extreme/Average	96	70	83	82	+1	1.49	+0.54	2	8.40				
2. North-Central													
Hickory Flat	94	66	79	79	0	1.48	+0.43	3	13.43				
Calhoun City	92	67	79	80	-1	0.93	-0.05	3	7.99				
Independence	92	67	79	80	-1	0.41	-0.48	2	6.48				
Oxford	95	68	82	80	+2	2.31	+1.40	3	8.10				
Extreme/Average	95	66	80	81	-1	1.28	+0.30	3	9.00				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	99	69	80	80	0	2.98	+2.04	3	11.30				
Iuka	91	53	74	77	-3	1.35	+0.30	4	9.28				
Ripley	93	66	79	79	0	2.81	+1.70	3	10.90				
Tupelo	96	62	82			2.58		3	11.23				
Verona				81		1.13	+0.35	3	6.74				0.31
Extreme/Average	99	53	79	80	-1	2.43	+1.45	3	10.68				
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	95	72	83	82	+1	1.13	-0.01	2	11.05				
Rolling Fork	99	71	84	82	+2	0.56	-0.38	1	5.63	108	82	95	
Stoneville	97	72	84	83	+1	1.40	+0.49	2	13.86				0.28
Yazoo City	96	70	82	82	0	1.02	+0.04	2	6.06				
Extreme/Average	99	70	83	83	0	1.03	-0.00	2	9.15	108	82	95	0.28
5. Central													
Canton	96			82		1.54	+0.68	2	11.14				
Carthage	94	69	81	81	0	0.00	-1.05	0	7.86				
Lexington	94	68	80	80	0	2.87	+2.01	2	10.74				
Eupora	94	68	80	80	0	1.67	+0.73	2	9.63				
Extreme/Average	96	68	81	81	0	1.52	+0.47	2	9.84				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	95	69	81	80	+1	0.54	-0.37	4	6.08				0.22
Houston	93	66	79	79	0	0.83	-0.10	3	8.35				
Louisville	92	62	79	79	0	0.08	-1.18	1	9.52				
State University	95	69	81	81	0	0.22	-0.80	2	9.31	87	80	83	0.22
Extreme/Average	95	62	80	81	-1	0.42	-0.63	3	8.32	87	80	83	0.22
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	96	71	83	82	+1	0.88	-0.11	2	10.27	105	73	91	
Natchez	95	72	83	82	+1	0.51	-0.40	1	4.82				
Oakley	97	69	83	81	+2	0.63	-0.21	2	6.21	105	81	91	
Vicksburg	96	71	83			0.71		2	7.96				
Extreme/Average	97	69	83	81	+2	0.68	-0.37	2	7.32	105	73	91	
8. South-Central													
Collins	96	71	81	81	0	2.20	+1.08	1	7.51				
Columbia	96	69	84	82	+2	0.45	-0.83	3	8.47				
Tylertown	96	69	82	81	+1	0.43	-0.97	3	11.07				
Extreme/Average	96	69	82	81	+1	1.03	-0.18	2	9.02				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	98	67	83			1.92		1	9.23				
Hattiesburg	94	71	82	82	0	0.33	-0.99	1	12.72				
Laurel	93	71	82	81	+1	0.11	-1.17	1	8.98				
Newton	96	68	82	80	+2	0.20	-0.92	1	8.43	93	76	84	0.23
Extreme/Average	98	67	82	81	+1	0.64	-0.62	1	9.84	93	76	84	0.23
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis				82		1.01	-0.72	3	7.12				
Gulfport				83		0.83	-0.78	5	5.90				
Poplarville	95	71	84	82	+2	0.09	-1.45	1	9.51	97	77	86	0.25
Waveland	94	73	83	81	+2	0.86	-0.68	5	6.58				
Extreme/Average	95	71	83	82	+1	0.48	-1.13	3	8.05	97	77	86	0.25
State	99	53	82	81	+1	1.05	-0.06	2	8.95	108	73	88	0.26

DFN = Departure from Normal.